AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

      1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for taking a policy decision by a policy decision device, wherein the policy decision device has access to objects being relatable to each other by relations of one or more relation types, the method comprising the steps of

      - receiving a request for the policy decision, the request specifying a first object of the objects and request information, said objects comprising entities that are controllable by one or more policies, said entities comprising person related data, computer devices, or applications,

      - obtaining a policy matching to the request information and being applicable to a second object of the objects,

      - obtaining at least one propagation rule associated to the policy, the at least one propagation rule specifying at least one relation type of the one or more relation types,

      - verifying if a relation path exits, the relation path linking the first object and the second object and consisting of one or more of the relations,

      - verifying f the one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance with at least one of the at least one specified relation type, and

      - if said relation path exists and if said one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance, applying the policy to the first object for taking the policy decision.

      2.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one propagation rule specifies at least one direction and the method further comprises the step of verifying if the one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance with the at least one specified direction.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one propagation rule specifies at least one condition that is verified for at least one of the objects of the relation path.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the existence of the relation path is considered for obtaining the policy.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one propagation rule is obtained from at least one propagation rule database on the basis of at least one reference identifier associated to the at least one propagation rule and the policy.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one further policy component of the policy is obtained from at least one policy component database based on at least one reference identifier associated to the at least one further policy component and the policy.

7. (Currently amended) A policy decision device for taking a policy decision, the policy decision device comprising:

a receiving unit and

a processing unit,

wherein

the processing unit is adapted to access accesses objects being relatable to each other by relations of one or more relation types,

the receiving unit is adapted to receive receives a request for the policy decision, the request specifying a first object of the objects and request information, said objects comprising entities that are controllable by one or more policies, said entities comprising person related data, computer devices, or applications,

the processing unit is further adapted to obtain obtains a policy matching
to the request information and being applicable to a second object of the objects,
to obtain at least one propagation rule associated to the policy, the at least one
propagation rule specifying at least one relation type of the one or more relation
types, to verify if a relation path exits, the relation path linking the first object and
the second object and consisting of one or more of the relations, to verify if the
one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance with at least one of
the at least one specified relation type, and if said relation path exists and if said
one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance, to apply the policy to
the first object for taking the policy decision.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The policy decision device according to claim
7, wherein the at least one propagation rule specifies at least one direction and the
processing unit is adapted to verify if the one or more relations of the relation path are in
accordance with the at least one specified direction.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The policy decision device according to claim
7, wherein the at least one propagation rule specifies at least one condition and the
processing unit is adapted to verify, for at least one of the objects of the relation path, if
said at least one object is in accordance with the at least one condition.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The policy decision device according to claim
7, wherein the processing unit is adapted to consider the existence of the relation path
for the obtaining of the policy.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The policy decision device according to claim
7, wherein the processing unit is adapted to obtain the at least one propagation rule
from at least one propagation rule database on the basis of at least one reference
identifier associated to the at least one propagation rule and the policy.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The policy decision device according to claim 7, wherein the processing unit is adapted to obtain at least one further policy component of the policy from the at least one policy component database based on at least one reference identifier associated to the at least one further policy component and the policy.

13.   (Currently amended)   A computer ~~program loadable into~~ readable medium of a policy decision device, the computer ~~program~~ readable medium ~~comprising code adapted~~ having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of a method for taking a policy decision, comprising:

accessing ~~to access~~ objects being relatable to each other by relations of one or more relation types, to process a request for a policy decision, the request specifying a first object of the objects and request information, said objects comprising entities that are controllable by one or more policies, said entities comprising person related data, computer devices, or applications,

obtaining ~~to obtain~~ a policy matching to the request information and being applicable to a second object of the objects,

obtaining ~~to obtain~~ at least one propagation rule associated to the policy, the at least one propagation rule specifying at least one relation type of the one or more relation types,

verifying ~~to verify~~ if a relation path exits, the relation path linking the first object and the second object and consisting of one or more of the relations,

verifying ~~to verify~~ if the one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance with at least one of the at least one specified relation type, and

if said relation path exists and if said one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance, applying ~~to apply~~ the policy to the first object for taking the policy decision.

14.   (Currently amended)   The computer ~~program~~ <u>readable medium</u> according to claim 13, wherein the at least one propagation rule specifies at least one direction and the computer program comprises code adapted to verify if the one or more relations of the relation path are in accordance with the at least one specified direction.

15.   (Currently amended)   The computer ~~program~~ <u>readable medium</u> according to claim 13, wherein the at least one propagation rule specifies at least one condition and the computer program comprises code adapted to verify for at least one of the objects of the relation path if said at least one object is in accordance with the at least one condition.

16.   (Currently amended)   The computer ~~program~~ <u>readable medium</u> according to claim 13, wherein the computer program comprises code adapted to consider the existence of the relation path for obtaining the policy.

17.   (Currently amended)   The computer ~~program~~ <u>readable medium</u> according to claim 13, wherein the computer program comprises code adapted to obtain the at least one propagation rule from at least one propagation rule database on the base of at least one reference identifier associated to the at least one propagation rule and the policy.

18.   (Currently amended)   The computer ~~program~~ <u>readable medium</u> according to claim 13, wherein the computer program comprises code adapted to obtain at least one further policy component of the policy from the at least one policy component database based on at least one reference identifier associated to the at least one further policy component and the policy.